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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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BRIEFS

THERMOELECTRIC PLANT PLANNED--Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals and Czechoslovak Deputy Foreign Minister [title as published] Jaroslav Jakubec will sign a contract today for the construction of a 330-megawatt thermoelectric plant in Santa Catarina estimated to cost \$430 million to begin operation in 1991. This was reported yesterday by Thompson Flores, president of Southern Electric Power Plants (Electrosul), after he participated in a meeting with the Brazilian minister and the Czechoslovak deputy minister. According to the agreement, the Czechoslovak Government will provide technology for the construction of the thermoelectric plant and will finance the equipment to be imported by Brazil. According to Flores, about 70 percent of the equipment will be manufactured in Brazil. The construction of the plant should begin in 1985 in order for it to start operation in 1991, since the estimated time for construction is 5 years. This thermoelectric plant is part of a group of 10 units included in the "Plan 2000" to begin operation up to the end of the century. Contracts have now been signed for two out of the 10 thermoelectric plants: Candiota III in Rio Grande do Sul with Czechoslovak technology and Jorge Lacerda IV in Santa Catarina with French technology. [From the Brasilia Agency] [Text] [PY131650 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Jun 82 p 32]

CSO: 3001/190

AUTHORITIES OF GUADELOUPE, MARTINIQUE MEET FOR TALKS

Rapprochement Praised

Pointe-a-Pitre FRANCE-ANTILLES in French 14 Jun 82 p 14

[Text] The limited assembly meeting held yesterday on Avenue de la Caraibe between the departmental executive representatives of Guadeloupe and Martinique marked the beginning of a rapprochement and policy of agreement which logic has long since dictated. "It is in fact necessary that the antagonism between Martinique and Guadeloupe cease," Mrs Michaux-Chevry said at the end of the first work session.

"The time has also come for us to show that we are responsible elected officials. This morning, we have studied the provisions of the decentralization law. The first observation is that they impose a substantial financial burden. In fact, the implementation of decentralization penalizes us, because it requires very burdensome operational structures without providing us with the resources necessary to set them up. Thus we are forced to undertake budget economies. In connection with future trade and relations between our two assemblies, President Maurice and I myself are entirely in favor of establishing permanent structures. It is true that for the time being the first priority is to put the tools to implement decentralization to use. And before speaking of a great region, which is a specifically political subject, we must urgently achieve the stabilization of our economy. The dock dues of which we have spoken will be a tool for development. And it has also seemed to us here that there is a need to establish a standardization system."

President Emile Maurice, Mrs Michaux-Chevry's counterpart, shares the views she set forth to the effect that decentralization constitutes the keystone for rapprochement between Guadeloupe and Martinique. "I am very happy about this meeting between the bureaus of our two assemblies under the banner of friendship and agreement. First of all, there is a need to implement decentralization pursuant to the law of 2 March 1982. I must say that we reached agreement on a certain number of points. By way of example, I might mention the matters pertaining to the dock dues on which we share similar views, particularly where the elimination of exemptions for the profits of public organizations are concerned, as well as the basic rates and fees collected by the customs administration. We believe in fact that what we are paying in this connection is too high.

"Up to the present, the state has sole authority to establish rates. In a way, the restraint of princes was imposed upon us."

The views are also the same on the issue of charges per diem in the hospital sector. The two bureaus have voiced a joint appeal to the government to re-assess the rates currently being charged in France.

"The importance of social and wage costs are being invoked, because of the wages in effect for overseas government employees, the cost of medicines and other charges related to our insular location, as well as the environment. The problem of immigration from neighboring islands is indirectly linked with this issue. The elected official want to act in a spirit of solidarity, but within an established framework wherein the responsibilities of each party will be clearly defined. In this connection, the hope for greater participation by the police forces under the authority of the prefect in activities designed to correct this situation was expressed. Finally, with regard to a different emigration, the same concerns were expressed. In fact, since heavy blows have been dealt to the resources of the FASO, the ANT, formerly the BUMIDOM, will encounter financing difficulties with the 1983 budget, at the latest, if the state does not intervene. The county councils in the Antilles will thus appeal to the government to have this matter put on an emergency agenda.

Joint Assembly Statement

Pointe-a-Pitre FRANCE-ANTILLES in French 14 Jun 82 p 14

[Text] On the initiative of the presidents of the county councils of Guadeloupe and Martinique, the bureaus of the two assemblies met in joint session on Friday, 11 June 1982, to exchange views on a problem of common interest facing their respective departments since the transfer of executive authority.

On the basis of the agenda drafted in advance, the presidents of the dock dues commission and the finance commission, those mainly concerned, participated in the discussions.

The questions discussed were the implementation of decentralization, the dock dues, the ANT, daily hospital charges, immigration and the 50 geometric steps.

A. On the subject of the implementation of decentralization, the two bureaus decided:

1. To make an appeal to the government authorities with a view to obtaining a state contribution to the costs of establishing the new departmental bodies, because of the very heavy burdens weighing on the organizations and the exceptional advantages provided to representatives of the state, particularly with regard to housing.

2. To ask the secretary of state for overseas departments and territories to provide the necessary travel resources for the members of the bureau on official missions to France (vehicle plus driver) on a reciprocal basis, in view of the similar facilities providing to technical advisers visiting said departments.

B. Concerning the dock dues, the two bureaus decided to propose to their respective assemblies:

- a. That the quota contribution asked of the communes for basic costs and charges be made an annual lump sum of 12,800 francs, as is the case for Réunion.
- b. That the exemptions from which public organizations benefit be eliminated (this issue will be discussed in greater detail later at a future meeting).
- c. That tariffs be standardized such as to lead to the free exchange of products between the two islands.

The council members involved with the dock dues issue in both assemblies will undertake to obtain the desired results as soon as possible.

(As an initial illustration, the commitment made by Guadeloupe concerning the standardization of rates for pasta in the near future might be noted.)

C. The attention of the two bureaus was drawn to the timeliness of agreement concerning the ANT with regard to the policy to be pursued on the maintenance of the subsidies granted associations dealing with migrants (CASODOM, AMITAG).

D. The bureaus voiced the hope that the financial participation of the state, more particularly in the realm of medical hospital aid, will be increased, in order to permit an increase in daily hospital charges because of the exceptional costs to be borne in the overseas departments.

E. The problem of immigration, which is of great concern because of its disastrous effects on employment, health and morals, was also raised.

The bureaus expressed the hope that the control measures provided by the legislation on immigration will be enforced (better policing on the frontiers).

Finally, they expressed their fears concerning squatting on the "50 geometric steps" zone. They expressed the hope that certain means of protecting this zone will be adopted.

In another connection, the elected officials of Martinique, who are determined to support the actions of their counterparts on Guadeloupe to see to it that the wages of state employees in Guadeloupe are handled through the general treasury of Guadeloupe, as in the past, emphasized that their assembly had no opportunity to express its view on the transfer of the state-owned computer of which the pensioners on Guadeloupe are the victims to Martinique.

Before adjourning, the presidents of the two assemblies voiced the hope, on behalf of their respective bureaus, that cooperation between the two departments will continue to improve.

The holding of a quarterly meeting, on principle, was approved, and the presidents agreed on the right to call more frequent meetings if the need makes itself felt.

The next meeting was scheduled to be held in Guadeloupe at the end of the month of July, in order to study energy problems of concern to the two islands, as well as the problems of economic development.

The participants in this meeting were as follows:

Representing Guadeloupe: Mrs Lucette Michaux-Chevry and Messrs Edouard Chamongon, Raymond Vivies, Daniel Beaubrun, Germain Jean-Louis, Favrot Davrain, Abdou Saman, Eugene Letang and Leopold Helene.

Representing Martinique: Messrs Emile Maurice, Maran, Elize, Renard, Catherine, Edmond, Juston, Delbois, Louis Joseph Dogue, Petit and Thalmency.

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CONGOLESE PRESIDENT LAUDS RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL

PY132025 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Jul 82 p 6

[Excerpt] Brasilia--During a press conference at Itamaraty yesterday, Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso stated that Brazilian concerns regarding the South Atlantic are his also. He said that "some very serious events recently took place in the South Atlantic, during which the People's Republic of Congo sided with Argentina." He explained that President Figueiredo's concern over this issue "has gained our attention and has contributed to strengthening our solidarity with Latin America."

In his speech greeting Sassou-Nguesso at a banquet held at Itamaraty day before yesterday, President Figueiredo stated: "With a clear vision of the future, we must admit the importance of the South Atlantic as a symbol of unity among the developing nations which surround it, and the fundamental role that ocean plays in safeguarding our common interests, in a climate of peace and security."

The Congolese president stated yesterday: "So far we have not signed any military pact. We only work in cooperation with our allies." According to him, his country has no expansionist plans, and is only willing "to establish a military dialogue with our friends."

The People's Republic of Congo has a Marxist-Leninist regime, although President Sassou-Nguesso feels that this factor creates no problems for good political and economic relations with Brazil. "Cooperation is important between socialist and capitalist countries, because the most important thing is the existence of cooperation and mutual respect."

Both Brazil and the Congo are for the creation of a new international economic order, changing the vertical system which exists at present with a horizontal one. The Congolese president stated: "We do not pretend to break relations with the industrialized nations, only to intensify the struggle for a new order. The Third World countries have much to gain from this type of cooperation."

He considers Brazil "a southern country which is becoming an economic, industrial and scientific power." The Congolese president finds useful a rapprochement with Brazil within the framework of the policy of "diversification" adopted by his country.

PROBLEMS OF SOCIALIST ECONOMIES DISCUSSED AT SYMPOSIUM

Havana CUBA SOCIALISTA in Spanish Mar 82 pp 140-146

[Report on economic planning symposium sponsored by the Central Committee's Internal Education Department, at the Nico Lopez Higher Party School; date not given; by Rodolfo S. Fonte, official of the PCC Central Committee]

[Text] Major problems of the socialist economy as it exists in Cuba were discussed at the symposium called "the Need for the Economic Planning System and the Objective Nature of Its Implementation As the Foundation of the National Economic Management and Planning System. [SDPE]."

The symposium took place at the Nico Lopez Higher Party School and was sponsored by the Internal Education Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba. Those attending represented departments of the Central Committee, the Nico Lopez Higher Party School, JUCEPLAN [Central Planning Board], and agencies of the central government and teaching and scientific research institutions.

Taking 3 days, the symposium involved the work of 4 committees, which engaged in a thorough discussion about the essence and the structure of the economic mechanism of socialism.

A broad range of issues was covered, regarding which a variety of views was expressed. This made possible a creative, diversified analysis of a body of both theoretical and practical problems, problems whose timeliness and importance were noted at the seventh and eighth plenums of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, held in 1979, and in the documents from the second Congress.

The objective of the gathering was to stimulate research concerning experiences with implementation of the economic planning system as the scientific basis for the SDPE, and to subsequently discuss the results of that research. Thus, a large number of experts in research, teaching, and practical economic activity took part.

The various problems discussed were dealt with in 59 reports, and the principal issues brought forth in them were approved by the participants during the symposium. As a result, there was substance to the claim in the closing speech that the symposium fully met its objectives.

As was indicated earlier, a broad range of problems was covered that drew scientific interest owing to their notable timeliness. We will look at some of them further on.

During the discussion, different definitions were offered concerning the essence of the economic mechanism of socialism, following study of the views of different writers: L. Abalkin, renowned Soviet authority; Yak Aroyo, of Bulgaria; Silvia Domenech, instructor at the University of Havana; and others.

Professor Carlos M. Garcia, of the department of political economy at the Nico Lopez Higher Party School, pointed out that all the definitions have in common the recognition of economic laws as the objective basis of the system of management of a society's economy. He also noted the need to make a body of measures function in harmony with the requirements of those laws.

Instructors from the Jose Smith Comas Provincial Party School suggested that economic planning constitutes all the methods employed by the managing agencies to attain their objectives. Moreover, such methods are conditioned by the system of economic relationships that rest on mutually dependent economic interests, which becomes a reality with the help of economic levers.

A group of instructors from the Candido Gonzalez Provincial Party School agreed about the determining nature of economic laws in the mechanism of economic planning. They believe that the Economic Management and Planning System, based on economic planning, is the response to the requirements of the economic laws that govern the mode of communist production in its first phase.

Eugenio Luis Camacho and Roberto Torres Sames, instructors at the Julio Antonio Mella National UJC [Union of Young Communists] School, offered an assessment of the method of socialist economic management based on economic planning, stating that the ideas concerning use of economic planning as the method of socialist economic management were developed by V. I. Lenin and tried out under his direction in the world's first socialist government. Moreover, they have been used, borne out and enriched since then by the other socialist countries. The authors asserted that those ideas are still being practiced; this has been demonstrated in Cuba, too. They expressed the opinion that economic planning is the only effective method for socialist economic management and that this method is objectively determined by the relationship of socialist production to the laws that govern that society.

It was clear in the discussions that all the participants agree in recognizing the unbreakable link between the economic mechanism and the operation of the objective economic laws of socialism.

Professor Raul J. Blanco Baez, of the department of political economy of the Nico Lopez Higher Party School, insisted on the indissoluble tie between the economic mechanism and the operation of objective economic laws, referring to the socialist economic law of distribution according to labor in the process of construction of the economy in Cuba. The professor believes that increasingly consistent use of the law of distribution according to labor taking place at present is closely related to the building of the technical/material base of socialism, to consolidation of the socialist production relationships, and to implementation of the SDPE based on economic planning.

Several talks concerning "the principles of economic planning" dealt, also, with major issues involving the theory of the economic mechanism and its practical application.

In his report, Demetrio Suarez Diaz, instructor in state enterprise economy at the Nico Lopez Higher Party School, described the principles of economic planning. Regarding financial autonomy and profitability, he proposed the idea that socially necessary average expenditures are a dynamic sum, changing endlessly as a result of constant changes in methods, in technology, and in the organization of the productive process, and owing to the increase in workers' skill. He maintains that this imposes constant improvement of the conditions of productive activity on the economic organization.

He stated that the economic/operational independence of the socialist enterprise is expressed in planned accounting, administrative, legal and physical independence. He then offered a detailed assertion of the importance of legal factors in implementation of the principles of economic planning. Suarez noted that the revolutionary government has approved different laws and decrees partially embracing each of them: obligations, rights and powers of the enterprise and its managers, so that the mechanisms created by the system are fully implemented and in effect.

Certified public accountant Joaquin Infante Ugarte, budget director for the State Committee for Finance, reported on material stimulation. He stressed how important implementation of the SDPE and proper creation and use of distributed funds are to the present phase; and he said the funds can constitute a notable stimulus to achieve increasing economic efficiency in the country. He based his analysis on the decisive nature of the principle of self-financing in order for economic planning to work.

Ramon Gonzalez Vergara, vice president of the State Committee for Prices, spoke about stimulation of exportable funds. He said that a country like Cuba needs to develop its economy by paying attention to the extent of its international compatibility. Therefore, it is necessary for it to consistently use the category of price not only as a tool for planning, measurement of costs, etc., but also as a decisive element in the process of stimulation of exportable funds.

The report offers a group of recommendations concerning the system of stimuli in Cuban currency for exportable funds as well as development of that system.

Ruben Toledo Diaz, director of prices for chemicals, mining and energy for the State Committee for Prices, spoke of the connection between prices and the system of economic stimuli.

His report opened with criticism of bourgeois and revisionist theories about monetary/trade relationships in socialism. He mentioned Lenin's statement that price is the manifestation of the law of value. Value is the law of prices; that is, the generalized manifestation of the phenomenon of prices. The report states that the function of prices does not involve a simple calculation but rather becomes a complex task of economic, social and political analysis by means of which it is possible to positively or negatively affect the economic interests of producers and consumers.

Of particular interest at the symposium was the discussion of the objective and subjective problems of implementation of the principles of economic planning and ways of eliminating them.

Several speakers dealt with this issue, including Ramon M. Rivera Paz, involved in data processing at the Ministry of the Food Industry. He expressed his views about the basic problems affecting implementation of the accounting system, dividing them into six broad groups: the level of ability of personnel, the table of responsibilities, and office equipment; wages and organization; technical complexities of the accounting system and frequent changes in the system; official price lists that are incomplete and so complex that it is hard to find prices; the system of charges and payments; the furnishing of models.

He described each of the groups and discussed the direct consequences of the problems affecting accounting at the enterprises.

Concerning the problems affecting physical control of stock turnover at enterprises, Comrades Juana H. Quiroga Neira and Jose L. Cuellar Valenzuela, of the MINIL [Ministry of Light Industry], stated the following: Deliveries are irregular, which at times causes genuine crises when a large amount of goods is received all at once; there is unsystematic collection and delivery of finished goods from the production line, which leads to violation of the rules for storage of inventory; there are deficiencies in the issuing of documents recording movement of inventory; there are improper annual and cyclical physical counts, which result in differences between stock actually on hand and accounting records; there is insufficient sustained, practical work in the areas of research, development, information dissemination and advising regarding the rules for inventory control.

During the discussion, the speakers offered a number of useful ideas and suggestions to solve the problems described.

In the discussion of fulfillment of the measures intended to create the basic conditions for implementation of the SDPE, Martha Ferrer Castanedo, head of the department of state enterprise economy at the Higher Institute for Management of the Economy, dealt with some fundamental ideas about improvement of the system of indicators guiding the industrial enterprise. She said that the indicators should be simple and readily understood, and they should reflect the volume and qualitative characteristics of what is produced, along with the resources committed and the relationship between results and expenditures; that is, efficiency of production. They should also insure the soundness of the connections among the different management links as well as the necessary stability that makes possible comparative analysis of the different periods.

During the discussions, many experiences from actual management of economies in different socialist countries were shared.

The final assessment of the symposium was highly favorable. Does that mean that the issues discussed there have been fully resolved for good?

The matters discussed are very complex, and the exchange of views undoubtedly aided the advance toward deeper understanding of the nature and role of economic

planning in the socialist Economic Management and Planning System. However, there is a need to continue research regarding all the processes operating in the national economy and concerning the ways of improving the relationships among socialist productive activities.

As occurs in most scientific gatherings, the symposium produced a group of recommendations. They point in two basic directions: One involves scientific workers, for they are a very useful tool in the carrying out of theoretical work; the other involves an interrelating of practical activities recommended for development and improvement of the organization of economic planning.

Finally, it is important to point out that of the recommendations made in the working committees' reports, there are two that reflect the shared views of all the participants: One concerns the need to stage gatherings of this type with a narrower focus and at different levels involving participation by representatives of enterprises in different sectors of the economy; the other is that agencies and institutions in question take to heart the recommendations made at the symposium and apply in practice whatever may be useful to them.

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NEW GUATEMALAN AMBASSADOR CONDEMNED

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish 14 Jun 82 pp 41-43

[Commentary by Lucia Luna: "New Ambassador to Mexico Founder of Terror in His Country"]

[Text] The worthy representative of the present Guatemalan Government, former president Julio Cesar Mendez Montenegro, has been appointed as his country's ambassador to Mexico.

We say "worthy" because, like the representative he is, he is in full agreement with his government's policies, particularly as regards repression, whose methods and practices were, of course, established during this term as president from 1966 to 1970.

When in 1966, after the assassination of his brother, Mario Mendez Montenegro, head of the Revolutionary Party [PR] and a rabid anticommunist, the present ambassador was nominated as a candidate for the presidency of Guatemala, there were different expectations.

Regis Debray writes: "Julio Cesar, a very liberal university professor, immediately took his brother Mario's position to the major benefit of that party [PR], because it permitted the adhesion of the traditional, nationalist and progressive Left. The democratic reputation of the new candidate deceived both parties and persons, as demonstrated by the misadventure of Miguel Angel Asturias, Nobel prize winner in literature, who accepted the post of ambassador to France without suspecting that the regime he was representing was going to unleash the worst campaign of repressive terror ever witnessed in contemporary Latin America; just as Noske allowed the Prussian Junkers to smash the German revolution in 1919, Mendez Montenegro, the epitome of a Central American social democracy unique in its century old heritage, was going to permit the generals of the Pentagon, allied with the local Junkers, to apply new theories and techniques of counterinsurgency throughout a country."

"This political-surgical experiment, scientifically conducted by the American military services on the body of a living people, without anesthesia, resulted in the torture and assassination, in less than 10 years, of about 15,000 persons, including some of this country's most conscientious and combative individuals."

Paradoxically, Mendez Montenegro had defeated the military in the elections with 22.16 percent of the votes and was considered the only alternative to avoid a coup d'etat by reactionary forces. However, to accomplish this he had to negotiate. In his book, "Tests of Fire, A Critique of Arms," Regis Debray points out:

"...Mendez Montenegro elected to adopt the military's modus operandi and to accept as his own the aspirations of the armed forces. He negotiated directly with the high command his assumption of the presidency by means of a formal pact signed in the greatest secrecy in which he committed himself to covering with all his presidential authority a large-scale military action. The army signed a blank check, giving him in advance completion freedom of action and the selection of the means to put an end to the guerrilla forces."

However, this military action was not limited to combating the guerrillas. With political overtones which went far beyond national interests, para-military bands sprang up. The repression was extended to civilian sectors. What was to soon become known throughout Latin America as "the terror" came into being.

Debray goes on to say: "massive terror whose first wave lasted from October 1966 to March 1968 had been studied and planned by the American military mission, principally by a man named Mathews D. Smith, since 1965. The central idea was to make the repression appear not to be a state system applied from above but rather a popular and spontaneous reaction from below on the part of the citizens themselves, in the fashion of a civic-religious crusade which energized the old Catholic reflexes of fighting against the Antichrist and defending Western values.

"Methods: anonymous letters and telephone calls, the painting of a black cross on the houses of persons suspected of being leftists, kidnappings and assassinations. Distinctive characteristics: pull out the tongue and cut off the left hand of their victims before killing them.

"Reactionary violence in Guatemala had never before reached such levels of cruelty. For example, the mutilated bodies of peasants were left at the doorstep of their houses. The army forced prisoners to torture others under threat of being tortured themselves, and a few renegades, having nothing to lose, were transformed into machines for the execution of their former comrades, after which they were killed by those who had employed them."

Debray calculates: "From 1966 to 1967, the assassins were those free-lance groups in which military men without uniforms rubbed elbows with the land-owners and the customary lumpen... The number of victims of that first wave of terror is usually set at 6,000. One correspondent of TIME magazine (1970) gives the more modest figure of 3,000 deaths (of which 80 were 'guerrillas,' 500 'sympathizers' and 2,2420 'bystanders.'")

These facts and figures are confirmed by Eduardo Galeano in his book "The Open Veins of Latin America." He writes: "1967 was the worst year of the violence which was initiated in 1954... in a little over 1 year (1968), the terrorist

groups of the Right had assassinated over 2,800 intellectuals, students, union leaders and peasants who had 'attempted to combat the diseases of Guatemalan society'... no one was told anything about most of the bodies: they were Indians without known names or origins, whom the army at times included only numerically in their reports of victories against subversion."

The fact is that Mendez Montenegro had reinstated Decree 2795 which was in effect from 1930 to 1944 and which exempted landowners and estate owners from criminal responsibility "in the defense of their lands."

Galeano explains: "According to the new code now in effect, members of security organizations are not criminally liable for homicides, and police or military reports are full proof in legal proceedings. Estate owners and their administrators were legally given the status of local authorities, with the right to bear arms and to form repressive organizations...Guatemala suffered through a long Saint Bartholomew's night."

In his [book] "The Panorama of Current Latin American Literature," Manuel Galich also gives a summary account: "The balance sheet of this 4-year government was the bloodiest this country has ever had, and American intervention reached even greater proportions than under the preceding three presidents: Castillo Armas, Idigoras Fuentes and Peralta Azurdia. Mendez Montenegro signed the Anticomunist Pact with the military which manipulated him."

During his term, Mendez Montenegro had as his secretary Gen Carlos Arana Osorio, better known as "The Jackal of Zacapa," because of the massacres he had perpetrated in that Guatemalan department. Arana Osorio replaced Mendez Montenegro in the presidency of Guatemala during the period 1970-1974. His chief of staff was Efrain Rios Montt.

Rios Montt is now president of Guatemala and his ambassador to Mexico is Julio Cesar Mendez Montenengro. That is the way history is written.

8143
CSO: 3010/1780

COUNTRY SECTION

MEXICO

EXPOSE ON CHIAPAS ESTATE OF LUIS ECHEVERRIA

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish 7 Jun 82 pp 16-19

[Article by Jose Reveles]

[Text] Tuxtla Chico, Chiapas--So as not to run counter to the abusive custom of countless country estate owners in this state, the laborers on the "La Argentina" country estate are not paid minimum wages, not even on the seventh day. These day laborers have not had a vacation in years and are forced to work 12-hour shifts without overtime pay. Any talk of profit sharing is frankly fantasy.

Therefore, as far as the Federal Labor Law is concerned, "La Argentina," with its nearly 70 hectares of banana trees is only fiction.

However, it has a particularity which accentuates the abuse of workers:

The owner is named Luis Echeverria Alvarez. Attorney. President of Mexico from 1970 to 1976.

However, not even the importance of this personality would be enough to explain the more than suspect dilatoriness of the Tuxtla Gutierrez and Tapachula labor authorities, who have for over 2 years have been aware of the serious and repeated violations of the rights of the farmhands on this country estate, which was deeded to Echeverria on 5 August 1975 while he was still president of the republic.

Far from remedying the abuses, the current administration of "La Argentina," Maj Antonio Llanes Salas, a member of Echeverria's group of aides or bodyguards, has taken reprisals against humble farmhands who dared to make demands with regard to their rights.

Luis Echeverria cannot plead ignorance of what is happening on his country estate, as the affected parties have sent letters--the last one significantly on 1 May 1982--to his residence and to the Center for Economic and Social Studies of the Third World, for which they have received receipts.

Of course, originally the country estate was said to be earmarked for installations of the Third World University. That is what was announced in the local

press during the period in which Governor Manuel Velasco Suarez took all the steps required to purchase the estate, which at the time was a coffee plantation, in the municipality of Tuxtla Chico, adjacent to Cacahoatan, a few kilometers from Tapachula and the Guatemala border.

All the coffee trees were uprooted, as were the cacao trees, although new ones were replanted. All of a sudden, the estate's only important product was the male banana tree. During the lengthy harvest which is now ending, trucks carrying 17, 18 and 20 tons on the average pulled out of the estate every 2 weeks.

Of the installations earmarked for the Third World University not even the remnants of its intended use are now visible. The last vestige was a sign announcing that public usage; however, it must have appeared too grotesque or unnecessarily obvious to the point that it was taken down almost 2 years ago.

No one in the region is unaware of who the real owner is. It is said of this and other country estates--"Los Luises," in Pijijiapan. "Los Llanes," in Tapachula and "La Fortuna," in Huehuetan--that things are not easy to prove. In the case of "La Argentina," there is no doubt.

On page 214 of Volume 1, for 1975, of the Tapachula Public Registry of Real Estate, under No 505, there is an entry which reads as follows: "Country estate named "La Argentina," in the municipality of Tuxtla Chico, sold to Luis Echeverria Alvarez."

"Dr Manuel Velasco Suarez talked me into selling him my country estate," recounts Miguel Angel Bodegas Munoz, a prosperous coffee grower and transport concessionaire.

"They say rather that you were forced to sell..."

"Forced? No. What happened is that they wanted to give me very little money. They took measurements and made appraisals which were not to my liking."

"But they threatened to tie up your estate. Is that not so?"

"Well, Velasco Suarez told me that there had been agrarian reform requests for the estate and said that he could not guarantee that the property would not expropriated. Faced with that situation..."

Finally, they paid Bodegas Munoz 800,000 pesos and permitted him to harvest the last coffee crop at the end of 1975 which raised the total payment to approximately 1 million pesos. "That was before devaluation," he lamented. Today, "La Argentina," half of whose 69 hectares are under irrigation, is worth at least 5 million pesos.

Then-President Luis Echeverria Alvarez signed the papers in his own name during a visit he made to Chiapas in October 1975. Miguel Angel Bodegas was asked unexpectedly one day for a meeting at La Atalaya, as the observation

point over the Sumidero canyon is known; and it was there that the deal was finalized, although 2 months earlier notary Jesus Marcellin Solis had taken it upon himself to record the deed in the Public Registry of Real Estate in the president's name.

With the change in crops on the "La Argentina" country estate, which at one time also had its live-in farmhands, the number of day laborers was reduced to a little over 20. When there were coffee plantations, hundreds of Guatemalans and Chiapans took part in the harvesting of the beans. There are some who have worked on the estate for over 40 years, under highly unfavorable conditions, without knowing the meaning of the word vacation.

Therefore, on 5 September 1979, the farmhands went to the labor authorities and were successful in having the Federal Labor Inspectorate issue a document in which the then-administrator of the country estate, "La Argentina," agreed to make the contributions called for by law and to punctually pay wages "and to treat us more humanely as regards working conditions," as it was put by the day laborers themselves.

A similar document was prepared on 11 December 1979 with identical promises, which have not been kept up to now. "We are being paid not the legal minimum wage," Luis Echeverria was told on 30 March 1981 in a letter with postal receipt acknowledgement number 12215.

Don Ovidio de la Cruz is an old activist for peasant and worker causes in Tapachula. Today he is chairman of the regional committee of the Mexican Workers Party [PMT]. He explained to us:

"At that time, the farmhands went to the federal authority because they believed and said that the estate belonged to the Third World Center. Even the Mexican Social Security Institute [IMSS] refused to enroll them for that reason and sent them to the ISSSTE [Institute of Social Security and Services for Government Workers]. However, they persisted until they were enrolled in August 1980, an action brought about by the affected comrades themselves. Since then they have been the object of reprisals on the part of the owner because of that struggle."

On 29 January 1980, complaint No 23 was filed with the Tapachula Labor Office--it was later to be transferred to the Local Conciliation and Arbitration Board where it languishes--in which the workers requested, among other things:

Enrollment in the Social Security system (that was the only thing they got and only because of the persistence of the day laborers): preference to Mexican national workers (over Guatemalans who are present in the region in great numbers): vacations and wage incentives of 25 percent; mandatory days off; the prevailing minimum wage; elimination of holiday pay differences; elimination of excessively long work days; weekly payment of wages (this is being done); and profit sharing.

The fact of the matter is that farmhands on the estate are now being paid 150 pesos per day. The minimum wage in the region was 200 pesos and was raised to 260 pesos as the result of emergency increments after the last devaluation.

Instead of respecting the hours-of-work schedule--theoretically from 0600 hours to 1400 hours, with a half hour off for lunch--the day laborers have to work shifts of 10, 11 and 12 hours, until their assigned tasks are done. That is, two "cuerdas" per day--each cuerda has a perimeter of 25 meters--which in the specific case of banana crop often forces the peasants to work until 1700 or 1800 hours. Temporary workers, those who did not protest, are forced to keep a schedule as a kind of punishment for those who demanded their rights and who are increasingly fewer, because the administrator has pressured some of them to abandon a legal battle which--they were told with utter clarity--they have already lost, according to him.

"The easiest thing is to invent a crime for them, fabricate witnesses and take them to court so that they will get what is coming to them," Maj Antonio Llanes Salas threatened, sure of himself and his own immunity and that of the estate owner.

Judging by the slowness with which the authorities act, it would seem that this man is right, who in this manner is doing a very good job of protecting his boss:

Poorly disguised subterfuges have repeatedly postponed the first hearing on conciliation, complaint and exceptions, over 2 years after the filing of case No J/0/190/80. In view of the fact that the farmhands who filed the complaint do not have an attorney they will be represented by the attorney general ex officio of Labor Defense. Neither the former attorney general, Francisco Martinez Figueroa, nor the present attorney general, Eduardo Dominguez Ruiz, have taken any action to resolve the case.

The last official document issued by Gutierrez in Tuxtla appears to be a joke. According to the authorities, on 6 May 1982, the date set for the hearing on the complaint and exceptions, Dominguez Ruiz was in attendance and stated: "The defendant is not present nor is anyone who legally represents him." He went on to explain:

"...because of an involuntary error by this secretariat, there was a failure to issue an official notice to the president of the Tapachula Local Conciliation Board to serve notice of the content of the agreement dated 26 February 1982, for which reason the defendant failed to appear at the present hearing. I hereby attest."

Like this pretext of oversight, on other occasions the argument was made that there was a procedural error: lack of address or the names of persons in the official documents and minor maneuvers which altogether have uselessly prolonged the resolution of the complaints of the farmhands, complaints which are nothing more than the exemplification of the labor laws.

The soldiers who previously surveilled the country estate were withdrawn some years ago. When they were there--according to the peasants--they killed the pigs and chickens they found there and ate them. Even though they were from that place, the town.

The first administrator of "La Argentina," after it was sold by Miguel Angel Bodegas, was Jose Maria Carriles, a confidant of former governor Velasco Suarez, to the point that he was the rent collector in the Tapachula region. After that came the administration of Abelardo Marin Arreola and finally that of Major Llanes Salas, who now goes alone on Saturday to deliver the diminished wages to the farmhands; however, the man who is really the foreman on this estate is his son-in-law, Manuel.

"La Argentina" is in the municipality of Tuxtla Chico and is adjacent to the municipality of Cacahoatan. In addition to the labor complaint, there is a petition signed by about 100 inhabitants from both municipalities who are requesting an increase in the legal fund--"we have many poor farmhands who do not have enough to pay their living expenses and none of us has the ejido endowment"--for the lands of this estate which, in the long run were not used for the installations of the Third World Center.

Prisciliano Jeronimo Perez, Daniel Rodriguez, Candido Perez and a dozen other farmhands who live in the Alvaro Obregon district of Cacahoatan, cite the estates which could be taken over so that they could receive a little land: EL Tecate, of Agustin Chan; La Concepcion, of Amparo Bodegas; La Rioja, of the heirs of Moises Moguerza; La Unidad, of Bruno Acosta; La Conception, of Pepe Capres and others.

However, not even the lands that belong to them have been respected there, a few kilometers from "La Argentina." Ariosto Lara Cruz, former municipal president of Cacahoatan, kept for himself lands expropriated years ago on behalf of the people for their church, the children's park and the sports park. On three occasions he ordered the destruction of the wood schoolhouse which the day laborers had built for their children. And, finally, in order not to be forced by the state authority to return the community parcels, they were sold to Marcos Gomez Barrios, current municipal president, who also built a house there. Those who protested were sent to jail and had to pay fines of 6,000 pesos each, almost 2 months wages.

In reality, what today is called the "La Argentina" country estate was made up of parts of three other estates: San Jose, La Victoria, Argentina and its annex, El Progreso, which added up to a total of 68 hectares, 91 ares and 68 centiares.

According to the deed, the sales price was 260,100 pesos. It is impossible to determine whether an amount lesser than the real price was stipulated--accepted by Bodegas Munoz in the presence of the recorder--to avoid taxes, as the deed, according to an observation made by Enrique Sumoano Ramirez, then-director of the Tapachula Public Registry of Real Estate, the purchaser was exempted from the payment of taxes. The tax evaluation which in the registry entry follows the sales price reads: "exempt."

Before that, notary Jesus Marcellin (now deceased) had obtained an initial testimony about the real estate on behalf of Echeverria which appears as entry No 123, Volume 3, under date of 4 July 1975, in Tuxtla Gutierrez. Deed No 505, in Tapachula, reads as follows:

"...that Miguel Angel Bodegas Munoz appeared before me and stated that he was selling ['La Argentina'] free of encumbrances, in accordance with the attached certificate, and with the consent of his wife, Remedios Guillermina Arbuna Casahonda de Bodegas, to Luis Echeverria Alvarez, who hereby purchases for himself the following real properties." The real properties are described.

Bodegas recounts: "When we signed the deeds, there at La Atalaya, I asked Echeverria for a 1-month extension in order to complete my coffee harvest and he, very amiably, consented. However, after that problems with the then-administrator started, namely Mr Carriles. And I gave up on the matter in the interest of peace."

Abelardo Hernandez Millan is the president of the PMT state committee in Chiapas. In this capacity, he sent a letter to Echeverria a little over a month ago "in order to solicit his favorable intervention to resolve the problem relating to working conditions and wages of the workers on the 'La Argentina' country estate."

The letter adds: "We have documentary evidence in our possession that you are the owner of the above-mentioned estate, on whose lands the Third World University was to have been built."

That documentation includes the IMSS registration for farmhand Justo Aguilar Baltazar, under enrollment No 71-80-24-0057, which lists a daily wage at that time of 75 pesos. Entry No 5 on the enrollment form contains the name of the work site, namely the "La Argentina" country estate and entry No 4 gives the name of the "owner of company": Luis Echeverria Alvarez.

In the letter to Echeverria, the names of the workers who filed their complaint on 29 January 1980 are listed: Roberto Fonseca Escobar, Sixto Aguilar Fuentes, Santiago Hernandez Reyes, Silvestre Sanchez Salas, Jesus Ramirez Ramirez, Justo Aguilar Baltazar, Eleuterio Huinaque Lopez, Florentin Perez Gomez, Pedro Lopez Perez, Juan Hernandez Reyes, Carlos Ramirez Ramirez and Dionisio Hernandez Dominguez.

"We feel it proper to inform you," the letter goes on to say, "that as the result of the filing of the complaint the administrator of the estate, Maj Antonio Llanes Salas, has excessively increased the daily work schedule and production requirements of the above-mentioned comrades, in addition to keeping them permanently hostage."

The letter mentions Mexican postal receipt No 3560, dated 12 January 1982, which proves that a letter and prior petitions had been received at Luis Echeverria's place of residence in San Jeronimo. "Since there was no reply and since the problems, instead of being resolved, have worsened, the Chiapas PMT State Committee, at the request of our comrade workers on the 'La Argentina' estate, agreed to intervene with you to ask you to resolve these problems.

"The specific request of our comrades is: that an internal work regulation be established in which the rights and obligations of the owner and workers are spelled out, that pending indebtedness be wiped out and that the legal minimum wage be paid."

Jorge Moscoso is handling the defense of this group of day laborers for the PMT. He was a witness to the fact that the president of the Local Conciliation and Arbitration Board of Tuxtla Gutierrez, Rodolfo Cervantes, had scheduled the first hearing for 30 June 1982--originally the hearing was set for 30 July--although 2 years late, this hearing could be the beginning of the resolution of the labor conflict on the estate.

It would be a serious matter if the reprisals against the complainant group were to be stepped up or if these day laborers were fired. Another case is to be heard before this same official: the case involves four farmhand complainants--originally there were 17 but they were gradually decimated by hunger and pressures--from the San Lorenzo country estate who filed a complaint after being fired, with no consideration given to the 15, 20 or 30 years they worked for the former owner, Enrique Machorro Musalem.

Constantino Mendez Santamaria, Enrique Perez Citalan, Antonio Vazquez Perez and Joaquin Gomez Garcia have waited 4 years for their problem to be resolved. The case file "was lost" when the president of the Local Conciliation and Arbitration Board was at one and the same time the attorney for the owner. Now action is being taken to process the case.

The farmhands of the "La Argentina" country estate are not asking for anything not provided by law. They are confident that their employer will comply with said law.

They feel that things should not be the same under Machorro Musalem and Echeverria Alvarez.

8143
CSO: 3010/1780

COUNTRY SECTION

MEXICO

BRIEFS

COSTA RICAN MINISTER ARRIVES--Mexico City, 5 Jul (NOTIMEX)--Calixto Chabez, minister of industry, energy and mines of Costa Rica, arrived here today on an official visit to meet with high-ranking Mexican commerce and industry officials and to request financial aid from our country. The minister reported that he is in Mexico to negotiate a deferment in payments on Costa Rica's debt to our country and an extension of the San Jose accord by which Mexico sells Costa Rica 250,000 barrels of oil at a reduced price. [Excerpt] [FL061122 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0222 GMT 6 Jul 82]

CSO: 3010/1884

RAMIREZ SAYS MISKITOS BELIEVE IN PROCESS

PA122359 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 7 Jul 82 p 16

[Text] Managua, Jul [as published] (ANN)--Commander William Ramirez, Atlantic coast minister, has stated that following an initial phase of idealization along the Atlantic coast, a phase that produced some friction between the revolution and the Miskito Indian communities, these communities are beginning to believe in the revolutionary process because of the benefits that are being secured.

Washington and the Somozist reactionaries have used the friction that arose between Miskito Indian groups and the Sandinist revolution to discredit the revolutionary process internationally.

Now that the third anniversary of the Sandinist revolution is near, Commander Ramirez has explained to ANN the reasons for the conflict and the type of relations that presently exists between the revolution and the Miskito citizens.

"I think," he said, "that they are beginning to believe in the revolution, because they realize that we are fulfilling our promises. This fact is a source of joy for anyone living under the conditions they had been enduring. Somozism had made them many promises but never fulfilled them."

Analyzing the first attempts of the revolution to promote development of the Miskito communities, Commander Ramirez said: "During the initial phase we made the mistake of idealizing our aspirations on the Atlantic coast. The facts are that it rains there 10 months a year, that we were unable to move in the material needed for schools and health centers, that the inherent sources of employment were not enough to provide permanent jobs for all our brothers who live in that area, that imperialism was cutting credits and that we did not have enough spare parts to give maintenance to the machinery."

"All of a sudden," he went on, "the dreams were torn to pieces. This, of course, clashed with the simple and pure way of thinking of our brothers there. Now they see that we have made more realistic plans and that they are the objective and the agents of the transformation on the Atlantic coast."

Regarding the relocation of approximately 10,000 Nicaraguan Miskitos taken to the Tasba Pry settlements to keep them from becoming victims of Somozist bands, Commander Ramirez said: "We must be honest and say this was a severe moral blow for them because no one likes to move out of the house where he lives. But if an earthquake destroys our home, we know that we have to leave, even if we don't like it."

Commander Ramirez added: "When we had the recent floods, no one wanted to leave his home. This is what happened with the relocation. The actions of Somozist elements who tried to take advantage of the humbleness and the simplicity of our people in that area to harass the revolution were not in accord with the will of the Miskito people. It was painful for them to leave their homes, but most of them understood that it was necessary to do it."

Regarding the situation of Miskitos who have been fooled by Steadman Fagoth and have left for Honduras, the Atlantic coast minister said: "Apparently their situation is very difficult. Communications are difficult, and although they are writing and asking that we do something to bring them back here it is difficult because apparently they are being held by Fagoth's forces, and we cannot solve that."

However, Comrander Ramirez said, "We are trying to get them back through religious and official organizations, and we will continue trying."

The minister was asked why the Nicaraguan Atlantic coast is seen as a strategic region from the point of view of the counterrevolution and as a possible site for a U.S. intervention. Commander Ramirez recalled that "on the Pacific side there was more combat than there was on the Atlantic side, and the level of military preparation is inferior on the Atlantic side of Nicaragua."

"Besides," he noted, "there is a historical explanation for the way imperialism is using some elements to try and separate the Atlantic coast from the Pacific sector."

"Imperialism," he noted, "had on the Atlantic coast a commercial zone, with lumber companies, fishing companies and banana companies operating basically in the Atlantic area, and the owners of these companies were, generally speaking, U.S. elements."

"Right now," he added, "imperialism, with Somozist support, is trying to create a government separate from the national government, to cover up an aggression against our country. And they are trying to justify this aggression by alleging the existence of an ethnic struggle, where the Indians would appear as the main actors in a struggle that is really being directed, promoted and maintained by the Reagan administration."

Commander Ramirez noted: "This would allow them to have a legal argument and a propaganda tool to 'sell' to the world the idea of a possible landing to support an 'aboriginal' government that from then on would work within the territory to destroy the government of national reconstruction."

Regarding the outcome of such an aggression, the commander said: "Imperialism knows that only by using the Marines could they destroy the revolution, and even though it would be very difficult because we would resist as much as possible. Only by destroying us would it be possible to destroy our revolution--and even then who knows?"

"Reagan," Commander Ramirez stated, "knows that neither his bands nor his mercenaries will be able to stop us, and that these attempts will have a very high political and military cost for imperialism."

CSO: 3010/1885

COUNTRY SECTION

PANAMA

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS MEET WITH PRESIDENT ROYO

PA092313 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1908 GMT 9 Jul 82

[Text] Panama City, 9 Jul (ACAN-EFE)--Panamanian President Aristides Royo met privately with leaders of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] to analyze the country's political situation, a PDC communique disclosed today.

PDC President Ricardo Arias Calderon and Vice President Guillermo Cochez said that they accepted Royo's invitation "because of the country's recent crisis, which could frustrate the Panamanian people's profound desire for peaceful democratization if it remains unsolved."

According to the PDC, during the meeting, which was held at the home of Miguel Angel Martin, president of the Academy of History, Arias Calderon told Royo that "the political climate has become increasingly volatile in recent weeks" because of actions like the 5-month jail sentence given Carlos Ernesto Gonzalez de la Lastra, director of the newspaper LA PRENSA.

Other factors that Arias Calderon cited as contributing to this climate are "the government's refusal to negotiate with the teachers on their salary demands, the unjustified delay in permitting Arnulfo Arias Madrid's followers to organize under their own name and the government's refusal to explain the scandalous embezzlement at the Social Security Institute."

Arias Calderon asked Royo for effective guarantees of clean elections in 1984, a new economic development strategy to face unemployment, honesty in public administration and substantial institutional changes toward a true democracy." [quotation marks as received]

According to the PDC communique, its leaders also asked Royo for "a foreign policy that expresses solidarity with true democratic forces, in order to avoid the establishment of yet another totalitarian regime."

CSO: 3010/1855

WARNING AGAINST GROWING SOVIET INFLUENCE

PA092006 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Jul 82 p 8A

[*"Other Media"* column: "Sovietization of Panamanian Commerce"--undated editorial reproduced from Panama City Radio Continente's "The Word" program]

[Text] The growing influence being acquired daily in our circles by commercial enterprises manipulated from Moscow and Havana cannot continue to be taken lightly by the public, particularly the private sector.

Indeed, the Civil Aeronautics Board, by proposing to sign a contract authorizing the Soviet state company Aeroflot to open offices in Panama, is continuing to implement the foolish policy of "Sovietizing" Panamanian commerce. The arrival of the Soviet air fleet in Panama maintains the characteristics and continues the style of left-leaning government that began with the Cuban ships in Vacamonte, continued with the little "Lada" Russian cars and apparently will continue with Aeroflot and the drydock.

We Panamanians cannot deceive ourselves regarding the true aims of these communist commercial enterprises. It cannot, of course, be a case of a simple desire to gain profit or to enter the free democratic game of supply and demand. Such premises are in direct contradiction to the Marxist postulates that call for state control of commerce and the means of production.

What, then, are the Russians and Cubans seeking with the alleged fishing, aviation, automobile and shipping enterprises? First of all, they come to spy: to establish their communications network, radar, film and photography centers; to obtain military and political documents which are later used in strategic plans to destabilize democracy and free trade. Next, they seek to establish ruinous competition and cause the bankruptcy of local enterprises. Since the communists don't work on the basis of commercial costs but rather from the viewpoint of geopolitical dividends that pave the way for their plans of expansion and domination, it is not possible to compete with them pricewise. The rest is simple. Unfair and ruinous competition will also bring unemployment, social unrest and the labor agitation that are just the right culture medium for the Soviet totalitarian doctrine to grow uncontrollably.

Last week "The Word" carried out a poll that demonstrated the feelings of the Panamanian people about this new governmental abuse that runs contrary to the inclinations and the democratic spirit of our most humble people. It is now up to the businessmen, the merchants, the capital investors and the bankers to express their opinion and exert whatever pressure they can to defeat this new and sinister Soviet infiltration into our country. Just as we defeated the Marxist education reform program, we can also put a definitive stop to the Sovietization of our commerce.

We said in our last editorial and we repeat now that if the communist entrepreneurs who exploit fishing industries, car dealerships, airlines and other capitalist-type businesses are not seeking profit, then some other objective, some other goal is motivating them to compete for the dollars that they claim to hate so much. What could it be?

Let us consider the case of the Soviet Aeroflot airline. That communist airline has been accused in more than 10 countries so far this year of barefaced involvement in espionage. KGB agents disguised as innocent business executives--wolves in sheep's clothing--have been caught red handed making diagrams, taking photographs, and making inventories of logistical and strategic installations, when they were not purchasing military and secret technological documents of Western countries.

CSO: 3010/1855

U.S. LAW ON CANAL DENOUNCED

PA121930 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 8 Jul 82 p 4-A

["Vox Populi" column by Luis Restrepo: "Voice of Alert"]

[Text] Law 96-70 for the implementation of the Panama Canal treaties approved by the U.S. Congress was created in the diabolic minds of a homosexual and one convicted of embezzlement, bribery and other dirty manipulations of the power he possessed.

That law totally distorts the content and letter of the canal treaties, and the Republic of Panama has never accepted it as a legal document binding on our country in any way. The president and foreign minister have availed themselves of all international forums to denounce Law 96-70 as an outrage against the sovereignty and dignity of the Republic of Panama and its people.

Despite these protests and similar denunciations made by governments of countries which support the Panamanian position, the U.S. Government implements the Panama Canal treaties in keeping with the provisions of Law 96-70. This attitude has become the principal point of conflict between the two nations since the current Panama Canal treaty entered into effect.

We have denounced in this column the maneuvers which a group of U.S. citizens, who do not accept the rights of the Republic of Panama clearly defined in the Panama Canal treaty or Torrijos-Carter treaty, are making within the Panama Canal Commission.

This group acts in an arrogant manner, protected by top-level personnel of the Panama Canal Commission. They are the provocateurs, those who sneakily set up traps hoping to cause a confrontation which will be taken advantage of by Washington with the perversity known to it.

According to Law 96-70, "the U.S. president, within the 2 years following the date the Panama Canal treaty of 1977 became effective, must submit to Congress a law which (1) amends or revokes the provisions of the law in its present form...."

That is, on 1 October of this year. According to reliable sources, maneuvers are underway so that as of 1 January 1990 the U.S. Congress will convert the administrator of the Panama Canal Commission into a protocol figure without command function or jurisdiction. As of that date, 1 January 1990, a Panamanian must be administrator of the Panama Canal Commission. I was informed that the "Zonians"--headed by Michael Gordon and his cohorts, Fred Cotton, Dwight McKabney, Roy Laverty, Dick Morgan and others--are working along these lines, alleging that "no Panamanian is going to give them or other U.S. citizens who replace them orders." They reportedly plan to try to put forward the position of chief engineer of the Panama Canal, with the prerogatives and functions of the "governor" of the former Canal Zone. It is only a proposal, a source told me, but we must stop it in time.

The executive branch and the Foreign Ministry must be alert to do away with this shady maneuver against the rights of our country.

CSO: 3010/1855

BRIEFS

ATTEMPTED VIOLATION OF TREATIES ALLEGED--Certain U.S. citizens have continued intransigently to oppose implementation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties. On instructions of U.S. citizen Raymond P. Laverty, an attempt is being made to appoint a U.S. citizen to the position of economist in the Panama Canal Commission. Statements in this regard were made to LA REPUBLICA by an entirely reliable source linked to the Treaty Affairs Commission. The source told us that several Panamanians who speak perfect English, in addition to being magnificent professionals in the field of economics and who could very well fill the position, have applied for the vacancy. However, Mr Laverty has recommended a U.S. citizen for the post. The source also indicated that there is great discontent on the part of Panamanian professionals who see themselves displaced by people of other nationalities in violation of the provisions of the Torrijos-Carter treaties that were signed in 1977. [By Damarys Munoz] [Text] [PA092016 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 8 Jul 82 pp 1, 10]

LIBEL SUIT AGAINST 'LA PRENSA' EDITOR--By means of a ruling dated 6 July 1982 and at the recommendation of the public prosecutor's office, represented by Secundino Chavez, first prosecutor of the Panama Circuit, Sixth Circuit Court Judge Albino Alain Troncoso ordered the initiation of criminal proceedings against Carlos Ernesto Gonzalez de la Lastra, editor of the newspaper LA PRENSA, for the crime of slander and libel against Dr Aristides Royo Sanchez, constitutional president of Panama. This crime is defined and sanctioned by Law No 8 of 10 February 1978. As will be recalled, in its 25 October 1981 issue LA PRENSA published a report that the Panamanian president had participated in a meeting in which it was proposed that the newspaper be "wrecked." This was subsequently proved to be false. Libel was therefore committed, as described in the ruling initiating the proceedings. The parties have 3 days to present the evidence in favor of their interests. Alvin Weeden Gamboa is the defendant's legal representative. [Text] [PA100026 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 9 Jul 82 p 5]

CSO: 3010/1855

BRIEFS

BRAZILIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES--Talks began last night with a Brazilian economic delegation which will sign several economic, technical and industrial cooperation accords which will provide the basic framework for bilateral relations after Itaipu, that is, after the hydroelectric dam goes into operation. The accords that will be signed also have to do with aid in the field of alcohol fuel. The group of negotiators arrived yesterday aboard two flights. One of them brought Industries and Commerce Minister Camilo Penna. The minister arrived at approximately 1900 last night aboard a special flight together with other economic officials. The arrival was scheduled at 1800 and the delay caused the cancellation of the first working meeting that was to be held to launch the negotiations with local economic officials. "I am sorry about the delay," were the first words of Minister Penna to his Paraguayan counterpart Delfin Ugarte Centurion, who was waiting for him at the airport. After the appropriate greetings to economic and diplomatic officials, Camilo Penna held a brief talk with the news media. [Excerpt] [PY020349 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 1 Jul 82 p 13]

CSO: 3010/1892

FOREIGNERS ON POLITICAL HUNGER STRIKE

PY121653 Tacna Radio Tacna in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Jul 82

[Text] The three foreigners on a hunger strike since 5 July in the headquarters of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees want Chilean citizen (Hector Padelik Samhueso) recognized as a political refugee.

Despite the fact that the three strikers--Bolivian (Carlos Nunez del Prado), Chilean (Hector Padelik Samhueso) and Paraguayan (Jose Luis Simon)--are ill, they decided to continue their strike in the UNHCR headquarters in San Isidro and to reduce their demands for solving the (Padelik) case. The foreigners are demanding an immediate solution to their request of legal protection and residence in the country.

(Padelik), who is 29 years of age, is in serious condition because in the past he has undergone surgery for a stomach ulcer and gall bladder. He was a refugee in Italy for 5 years before coming to Peru. He does not have the required documents to legalize his residence in Peru. He is requesting permanent or temporary residence. (Nunez del Prado) has been unsuccessfully trying to obtain residence in Peru for the last 7 months. After he went on a hunger strike he was notified that his request had been granted. The Bolivian is also in a serious weakened condition with muscular pains. According to the medical report his condition is serious because if he continues on the hunger strike his pains caused by bayonet wounds may increase.

CSO: 3010/1891

TERRORISTS ATTACK NANA POLICE STATION

PY071417 Tacna Radio Tacna in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Jul 82

[Summary] "Two civil guardsmen were killed and a third one was wounded during an attack on the Nana police station perpetrated last Monday night by a group of terrorists. Two terrorists were also killed."

(Roberto Herrera Hernandez) one of the terrorists killed during the attack, has been charged by the police with having murdered (Luis Chagra), an engineer, in a horrible incident that occurred 2 months ago on the road leading to the (Aurora Augusta) mine, in the (Cicamarca) zone.

"The night of the attack on the Nana station, a black night in police history, the terrorists smashed the doors of the station open and shouting 'This is an attack, we only want the weapons,' broke into the station firing their weapons and put one bullet in the stomach and two in the thighs of Guard (Enrique Torres). The armed terrorists, divided into two groups, also attacked through the rear of the station."

The shooting disrupted the tranquillity of the 300 inhabitants of Nana. A terrorist also killed noncommissioned officer (Luis Julio Valdivia) by shooting him nine times at point blank range while he was drafting a police report. Alerted by the shots, a third guard came from the second floor, shooting a submachine gun at the attackers.

"In a recent communique, the civil guard reports that an intensive dragnet operation is being carried out to hunt for the attackers, that approximately 100 suspects have been detained and that those who attacked the Cerro de Pasco station may be among them."

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COUNTRY SECTION

PERU

BRIEFS

ZAMBIAN MINES MINISTER'S VISIT--Zambian Mines Minister Mufaya Mumbuna yesterday met for 15 minutes with President Fernando Belaunde. The Zambian minister went to the presidential palace with his Peruvian counterpart, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, and two advisers. Mumbuna will attend a meeting of the Intergovernmental Council of Copper Exporting Countries which will open in Lima next Monday. [Text] [PY081847 Lima Radio Union in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Jul 82]

OCOBAMBA POLICE STATION ATTACKED--Dressed in ranger uniforms and wearing red berets, 30 terrorists, including several women, attacked the Ocobamba police station early yesterday morning. Cpl (Augusto Ulega Silvera) was wounded and forest civil guard (Asuncion Fuster) was seriously wounded. The terrorists, who used rifles and machineguns, were held back for several minutes by the Ocapala police but they were finally able to seize the police station because they greatly outnumbered the police and had sophisticated weapons. [Text] [PY091408 Lima Radio Union in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Jul 82]

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POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF FALKLANDS CRISIS UNDERLINED

Caracas RESUMEN in Spanish 20 Jun 82 pp 46-47

[Article by Alberto Cisneros Lavaller, professor at the IESA [Institute of Higher Education for Administration], member of the Executive Board of the International Studies Association of the United States, member of the National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Political Science, Argentina: "After the Malvinas Crisis"]

[Text] The consequences of an armed conflict are always painful, above all and lamentably from the standpoint of the loss of an untold number of human lives that are irreplaceable. Armed conflict is perhaps the most agonizing of relationships between nations and, when international policy collides head-on in the real world of concrete beings, between human beings.

As a quantitative analyst in the study of international relations, in addressing the future consequences of the crisis, entirely within the realm of international relations, I shall not go into a consideration of short- and medium-term scenarios, or of contingency plans; nor shall I outline probable, optimistic or pessimistic scenarios that could emerge from the Malvinas conflict. The facts and the nature of such scenarios warrant a real investigative study that exceeds the limitations of this commentary. However, I shall address in some detail the implications the crisis is already revealing, particularly for the future, and the scars it will leave, especially with respect to the demonstrable case of hemispheric relations.

There are at least four levels of analysis on which we can identify consequences for the future ensuing from the Malvinas conflict. Those are: In the region, at the Latin American level; in the hemisphere, at the continental level; in the developed world, at the Western level; and in the world as a whole, at the global level. Let us take each of these ambits and consider the consequences the crisis is portending in each of those cases.

At the Latin American level, we see at least four consequences that cannot be ignored. The first of these is unquestionably the setback dealt to the OAS by the actions of the United States in disregard of the TIAR [Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty]. This means the treaty has been rendered forceless,

in that the superpower has opted in favor of its northern ally, its NATO partner. Such an abrupt breach of the TIAR as was the United States' abrupt back-down, brings to light two problems. One is the high degree of questionability of the organization itself (that of the American states), which, when faced with something as important as the defense of the hemisphere, does not work. This places the Latin American countries in the position of having to seek another forum, at least insofar as concerns the defense aspect, for the channeling of problems relating to their regional security. And this in turn gives rise to a vast problem of feasibility and viability with which the nations of Latin America will have to cope from now on. It has been shown that, hemispherically, Latin America must rely solely on its own resources. The other aspect that needs pointing out is that of the political consequences that could result in the definitive breakup of the OAS. And from this standpoint, this question is in our view the second operative consequence in the regional frame of reference.

Just as our nations must now seek a forum for defensive issues affecting their regional security, there could also ensue, as regards political issues as well, an exclusion of the superpower. As was done with the SELA [Latin American Economic System] in the economic ambit around the middle of the previous decade, the addition of a political function to that secretariat would transform that system into an SEPLA [Latin American Economic and Political System].

In addition to this, the high degree of Latin American awareness the conflict has generated puts us before a third consequence with respect to the future of the region's integration plans. We are deeply convinced that now is the superbly opportune time to bring about positive actions toward the implementation of some of those plans. As to the empirical and practical aspect, and since the embargo decreed by the EEC [European Economic Community] has in good part strangled Argentina's foreign trade, the Andean Pact countries as well as the LAIA [Latin American Integration Association], or the Central American Common Market itself, could engage in trade that would broaden and even stabilize the region's trade flows.* Of course, we do not believe this is the means of solving all the crises integration has had to face; rather, we see this as the most adequate moment, as an ideal "culture broth" for the starting of an effort to revitalize all or any of these plans.

And lastly in this regard, as we see it, the Venezuelan leadership in the region has undergone its fire test and has come through it unbeatable and uncontested. It was Venezuela who took a clear and incontrovertible stand in support of the southerly nation. There can be little doubt that its active participation was decisive in obtaining, at the 20th Consultative Meeting, the hoped for support of the Argentine cause.. And it does so today when it urges on the hemispheric organization something that is truly unprecedented but that appears challenging because of the unity it implies and because an approach may be found therein toward resolving the defense problems to which we have alluded above: The forma-

* Noteworthy in this respect is the posture taken by the GRAN [Andean Regional Group], which is currently studying this possibility as a way of helping Argentine trade.

tion of a combat unit to help Argentina materially and militarily. This is a convincing and complete demonstration of the unshakable decision of one who wants, intends and is able to carry the banner of Latin Americanization of our continent.

In the continental ambit, there are other consequences which we shall take the time to examine. The first of these is the fissure within the inter-American system. The dissolution of its continuance was produced by the distancing of the United States from Latin America when it ignored the resolution of the 20th Consultative Meeting. And that alignment against Latin America all the more insulting in that it was not only rhetorically declarative in support of the United Kingdom, but was actually transformed initially into logistical support, then--and now--in military support. Moreover, in freezing, through an embargo, the sale of war materiel and armaments to Argentina, it has created a highly conflictive situation that goes so far as to threaten the very existence of the system of inter-American international relations, which the United States has always claimed it so strongly supports.

We believe, however, that what has occurred in the system has been a crack but not a total rupture. And this is so because it will be very difficult from now on to distance ourselves radically (which is what Latin America should do) from our traditional partner, the country that is central to our dependency: The United States. Nevertheless, this realistic need that keeps us from breaking our bonds definitively imposes on us the adoption of another frame of mind with a new orientation: Toward the revitalization of our regional ties (already mentioned herein in connection with consequences for the integration movements) and toward the increasing of our ties with the developing countries similar to ours (this will be discussed further in connection with the global ambit). On the other hand, and with respect to the superpower, a distinction must be drawn that is dear to the hearts of Americans and that, to be sure, has not been less resorted to by ourselves. I refer to the people-government dichotomy. This may be a way to restore in the future a part of the dialogue. But it carries the inescapable certainty of having to operate at the highest possible levels of influence on the policy making groups in the United States, and using the same mechanisms they themselves use--even constitutionally--to articulate demands and pressure the government apparatus. We would thus have our interests backed in the best possible way and it being seen to that there be no recurrence of painful situations such as the one we are experiencing with the TIAR. The example of certain governments that maintain powerful lobbies to influence decisions in the Congress of the United States can be suggestive of how one can operate effectively, and "with the same weapons" within a given system.

As regards the sphere of the Western world, the crisis, in our view, offers us other lessons or outright consequences by way of the demonstrable example it provides us. To begin with, it marks a clear break between the EEC and Argentina and, to a certain extent, a deterioration of relations between the Community and Latin America. Proof of this is contained in the fact that there is already talk of the possibility of adopting bloc measures to meet those of the EEC. In the second place, a split has begun to take place within the EEC, stemming in

part from the fact that Italy and Northern Ireland have not gone along with the sanctions adopted by the Community. Moreover, the problem of the price increases for farm products--a decision that will be taken against England's veto --marks the breakdown of the principle of consensus for decisions taken by the EEC, and foreshadows a split within the EEC at a time which is far from being the best from the standpoint of European integration.

Lastly, a third consideration, still at this analytical level: Account must be taken of the weakness of NATO and of that of the United Kingdom as a world power. NATO's weakness is manifest in two respects: The first, in that the distancing of the British fleet (the world's third) leaves highly vulnerable northern strategic points exposed; and the second, in that this crisis has revealed the frailness of surface ships in the face of the non-nuclear missile arsenal a developing country is able to deploy. In addition, Great Britain's weakness is manifest in the extreme, when it must resort to placing requests for military assistance on the Western superpower to fight against a less powerful nation--a medium power at best. The question this raises in our minds and the one I wish to leave for further reflection by our readers is: What kind of a power is Great Britain if it must resort to help from a superpower to fight against a developing country?

Lastly, at the global level, the impact of the crisis centers as much on the called North/South dialogue as on the recently minted South/South dialogue. The characterization of this conflict, from the very beginning (see our first article in RESUMEN, No 443), as a North/South conflict--in which not only are the claimants polarized (Great Britain toward the North, Argentina toward the South) but also their alliances--has produced an alignment that goes beyond the crisis, pitting Argentina and all of Latin America on the side of the South, against Great Britain, the United States and the EEC, all banded together, on that of the North. This situation bears out the need to promote the rapid implementation of an exclusively South/South dialogue among the developing countries as the sole alternative for dealing with the inconsiderate alignment of the countries of the North. This dichotomy has been brought out in a most flagrant and irrefutable manner once again by the crisis.

Regardless of the result of the military conflict, Argentina's claim to a part of its own territory renders possible at any time a multiplying effect with respect to other colonial enclaves. This is particularly true in those in which the British crown is involved against Ibero-American claimants. This is the case in Belize; in Guyana, although with certain differences that have been lucidly drawn by many political leaders and experts; and in Gibraltar. These demonstrably possible effects could have repercussions on the regional level as well as within the Western world in accordance with the classification of analytical levels we set out to examine at the beginning of this article.

Finally, beyond the latter classification, there are certain strategic classifications that cannot be set aside unaddressed. Without dismissing the outcome of the armed conflict, Argentina could very well position itself as the true guardian of the South Atlantic in either of the two probable scenarios in that

context: That is, jointly with Brazil to defend only the Western side of the Atlantic, or jointly with the West African coastal states to guard both sides of the South Atlantic. This possible entente on defensive perimeters, similar perhaps to NATO, tends also to revitalize the strategic importance of conventional armaments. This is another convincing truth that has been amply demonstrated by the Malvinas conflict. Given the vastly disproportionate capacity of the nuclear countries vis-a-vis the non-nuclear ones, the deterrent effect of atomic weapons is valueless against non-nuclear countries; the only remaining possibility is therefore conventional weapons. Hence the renewed importance of certain geostrategic and geopolitical concepts, a return to which would be admirably suited in this case to the control of the the South Atlantic Ocean, a compulsory passage--of which there can be no geographical doubt--between the Indian Ocean and the North Atlantic, and between the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans for the higher-tonnage ships and supertankers that cannot circulate via the Panama Canal. In other words, one of the main routes of communication between South and North. Truly, its jugular vein.

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RAFAEL CALDERA'S VICTORY APPEARS CERTAIN

Caracas RESUMEN in Spanish 20 Jun 82 pp 14-16

[Text] The 4th Special Convention of the COPEI [Social Christian Party] not only reformed the party's by-laws; it did so in a climate of unity and even of acclamation. This is an opportunity that must be seized by Former President Caldera to strike firm and viable agreements with the Pepists [the Pepi Montes de Oca faction of COPEI].

The 4th Special Convention of the party came to an unjolting conclusion. Contrary to all predictions, the event, which some analysts believed to be fraught with potential bombshells of all kinds, with all kinds of potential explosions, actually seemed more like "a family prayer meeting," in which the devout Social Christian ethos seemed more inclined toward mutual understanding and even confessions of sins. "The most important of all the objectives achieved," said Rafael Montes de Oca, "has been the ratification of party unity, because unity within COPEI is a strategic asset for the achievement of its short-, medium- and long-term objectives."

Of course, Former President Caldera had his difficult moments, the most troublesome of which was the interruption of the closing speech by a group of Pepist adolescents. The speech, however, was not on the program and some Herrera-ists interpreted the words of the candidate for the party's nomination as an act of "cunning." The incident passed without major mishap and the speaker limited himself to characterizing the troublemakers as "neocopeyanos" ["neo-COPEI-ians"].

The 4th Convention approved unanimously the modification of the party's by-laws, creating new mechanisms for the appointment of substitutes to the Election Committee, then enlarged the National Committee, appointing six new principal members and two substitutes.

The new members of the Election Committee are Miguel Angel Landaez, Enrique Perez Olivares, Victor Gimenez Landinez, Rafael Angel Cartaya, and Enrique Aristigueta Gramcko, who will function as substitutes for Jose Antonio Perez Diaz (chairman), Lorenzo Fernandez, Felipe Montilla, Dagoberto Gonzalez, and Miguel Angel Hernandez Ocanto.

The new members of the National Committee are: Principals: Rafael Andres Montes de Oca, Enrique Perez Olivares, Hilarion Cardozo, Jose Luis Zapata, Julio Cesar Moreno, and Donald Ramirez. Substitutes: Paciano Padron and Carlos Rodriguez Gautaume.

A Congress Prior to August

According to the proceedings of the Special Convention, the Social Christian Congress, which was to be held in August to elect the party's candidate for president of the Republic, may be advanced to an earlier date. The by-laws reform approved on Friday 4 June shortens the minimum advance notice required for convoking the event from 30 days to 10 days.

The former by-laws stipulated that "The date and place of the congress shall be determined by the National Directorate of COPEI or, in default of the latter, by the National Committee, who will convoke it through the press with at least 30 days advance notice, having taken cognizance of the opinion of the Presidential Election Committee."

The modified by-laws stipulate that "The date, place and holding of the congress shall be determined by the National Directorate of COPEI, who will convoke it through the press with at least 10 days advance notice, having taken cognizance of the opinion of the Presidential Election Committee."

Commenting on this, Secretary General Eduardo Fernandez stated that "If the lists of delegates to the congress are sent in on time, and if the Election Committee so decides, the congress would be held at least 20 days prior to the presently planned date, although still after 1 July, the date set by the Supreme Election Board for the start of the election campaign. This question may be decided any time now."

Pepi Montes de Oca, for his part, asserted: "As far as I am concerned, if the congress can be held early accomplishing its objectives, then we should hold it now. The date is unimportant. Effectiveness and efficiency are what count for me. In any case, it is the Election Committee that must decide the matter."

Star Wars

Meanwhile, the Calderists and the Pepists continued in their war of computers. Thus, Idelmaro Martinez, of the former president's staff, informed the media that Caldera controls 80 percent of the organization, and spoke of a meeting held recently at campaign headquarters that was attended by "25 members of the National Committee, 19 presidents and/or secretaries general of all the party's sections throughout the country, which assures the former president the backing of 77 percent of the party's structure at this time and 85 percent of the para-partyist structure.

"This means that of 4,416 delegates from the party structure, 77 percent support Caldera, 17 percent support Montes de Oca, and there are some 6 percent of undecideds, who are really not so because within the next few days they will announce their backing of Caldera."

(1) Cifras del Comando de Caldera

	(2)		
	<i>Total</i>	<i>RC</i>	%
Anzoátegui	216	158	70
Apure	144	105	73
Aragua	192	152	79
Barinas	190	113	59
Bolívar	143	115	80
Carabobo	194	107	55
Falcón	278	277	99
Cojedes	93	61	66
Guárico	190	126	61
Lara	213	101	47
Mérida	318	239	75
Miranda	265	212	83
Monagas	125	95	76
Nueva Esparta	122	78	64
Portuguesa	165	118	72
Sucre	261	201	77
Táchira	280	201	72
Trujillo	244	183	75
Yaracuy	136	109	80
Zulia	277	240	87
Terr. Amazonas	34	26	76
T.F. Delta Amacuro	27	13	48
Dpto. Vargas	35	27	77
Dpto. Libertador	114	94	82
Federación de Trabajadores Copeyanos (3)	557	478	86
Juventud Revolucionaria Copeyana (4)	204	160	79
Movimiento Agrario (5)	115	104	90
Movimiento Magisterial (6)	1,423	1,281	83
Movimiento de Profesionales y Técnicos (7)	325	262	80
Frente Femenino (8)	12	6	
	24	20	

Key:

- 1. Caldera Headquarters' Figures
- 5. Agrarian Movement.
- 2. Rafael Caldera.
- 6. Teachers Movement.
- 3. Social Christian Workers Federation.
- 7. Professionals and Technicians Movement.
- 4. COPEI Revolutionary Youth.
- 8. Womens Movement.

Pepist headquarters, for its part, issued an "informative bulletin" pointing out that the figures processed by its "computer center" show "that of an overall total of 5,506 delegates to the congress, 48 percent firmly support the precandidacy of Pepi Montes de Oca, 40 percent support Former President Caldera, and there are 15 percent undecided."

The Happy Winner

It is evident that the Convention's climate of acclamation and unity added a sizable number of backers to the precandidacy of Former President Caldera, who can now look forward to an election free of traumas. Moreover, the reforms could contribute to advancing the date of the congress and thus discount the advantage the Democratic Action candidate has gained over him.

But Caldera will now have to take the offensive both inside and outside the party, and this offensive will remain stalled unless he is prepared to make important concessions to Herrera-ism and its candidate, both within the party and the future government. To this effect, only weeks remain, and his initiatives must be attractive and bold. Otherwise, lying in wait for him there may be some unpleasant surprises.

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COUNTRY SECTION

VENEZUELA

BRIEFS

ZAMBRANO VELASCO ON NONALIGNED--Today Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco described a warning issued by the Bogota newspaper EL TIEMPO as somewhat exotic. The paper warns that Venezuela would be making a tremendous mistake if it joins the nonaligned movement, which is currently headed by Cuban President Fidel Castro. In this regard, the Venezuelan foreign minister said the following: [Begin Zambrano recording] That opinion is somewhat exotic. The truth is that the people of our country have reacted very favorably to the possibility that Venezuela may join the nonaligned. I don't know if Colombia's desire to see Venezuela stay out of the nonaligned could have something to do with Colombia's position on the Malvinas issue. [end recording] Foreign Minister Zambrano also reiterated that Venezuela will not sign any treaty on the Law of the Sea: [Begin Zambrano recording] This conference is about to conclude. It has included some provisions that Venezuela feels contradict its national interests. For this reason, Venezuela will not sign this treaty. [end recording] [Excerpts] [PA111747 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 9 Jul 82]

PRESIDENT INVITED TO NICARAGUA--Caracas, 9 Jul (AFP)--Today a Nicaraguan Government delegation invited Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins to attend the celebrations marking the third anniversary of the Sandinist revolution's victory on 19 July. The delegation consisted of Joaquin Cuadra, finance minister; Fernando Cardenal, official in charge of the Sandinist youth; and Roberto Leal Ocampo, Nicaraguan ambassador to Venezuela. They met with Herrera Campins at the Miraflores Palace in the company of Rafael Zapata Luigi, Venezuelan ambassador to Nicaragua. The Venezuelan diplomat said that the president told the visitors that he will study the invitation and will reply to it thereafter. [Text] [PA100440 Paris AFP in Spanish 2355 GMT 9 Jul 82]

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